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Illinois Hospital Association Honors State Senator Deanna Demuzio

Springfield – State Senator Deanna Demuzio was honored for her commitment to small and rural hospitals on June 25 during the Illinois Hospital Association (IHA) Annual Meeting of Small & Rural Hospitals in Springfield. The Rural Legislator of the Year Awards recognize a State Senator, a member of the Illinois Congressional Delegation, and a State Representative. Sen. Demuzio (D-49, Carlinville) was nominated for the award by Ken Reid, CEO of Carlinville Area Hospital.

Sen. Demuzio was recognized for her work with the Illinois Task Force on Rural Health Care, her support of rural hospital legislation and her attention to the issues of the individual hospitals in her district. “She is always there to listen and provide support when we need her,” said Reid. “She has heightened awareness of rural hospital issues and fights for our small hospitals here in Central Illinois.”

Other award winners were U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and State Representative Robert Pritchard (R-70, Sycamore). “Each of these award recipients has gone above and beyond the call of duty to support rural hospitals in Illinois,” said Randy Dauby, Chair, Steering Committee, IHA Small & Rural Hospitals Constituency Section. “They work closely with rural health providers, listen to their needs and support important legislation that improves access to health care for all rural Illinois residents.”

Sen. Demuzio has worked diligently over the past few years to support passage of House Joint Resolution #5, which created the Rural Health Task Force, and as Co-Chair of the Task Force. She has sponsored legislation to improve access to equipment and supplies for Emergency Medical Service providers around the state and hosted a forum in her region to discuss access to mental health care in rural regions of the State. She meets regularly with her hospital administrators and supports individual projects to expand access to care in her district. “Her efforts have been tireless and we are pleased that she continues to work with her colleagues to bring resources back to rural communities,” said Dauby.

IHA, with offices in Naperville and Springfield, is an advocate for 200 Illinois hospitals and health systems and the patients and communities they serve. Additional information about IHA is available online at www.ihatoday.org.